



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Storbie
- Choice Pharmacy

Booking solution

PHARMACY owners and managers can earn the chance to win a \$250 RedBalloon Experience Voucher, by finding out more about Storbie Bookings' online appointment system.

See **page three** for more.

Choice career

OPPORTUNITIES are available for pharmacists to join the Choice Pharmacy brand.

See **page four** for more information.

NSW COVAX pilot 'misses the mark'

PLANS to activate 22 pharmacies as COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) sites in regional and rural parts of NSW are "simply not enough", Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai, believes.

While welcoming the decision to allow some pharmacies to start administering doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to patients age 60 years and older, Felkai expressed concerns that "there is no plan for the expansion of this so-called pilot."

"Whilst this is a welcome outcome for those in some regional NSW communities, it still misses the mark, especially during a time where Sydney is subjected to the longest lockdown we have seen in a year," she said.

"Pharmacists should also be administering all available vaccines in order to reach a greater proportion of the population.

"We have been given every excuse for not being included in the rollout to date; from difficulties in

administration to cold chain and supply issues – this can no longer be tolerated.

"We desperately need a patient-centric approach that puts the community first, but it is apparent that the NSW Government's approach to the rollout does not support this."

Felkai also expressed concerns about the risk of viral transmission in state-run mass vaccination hubs.

"The announcement yesterday of a positive case at one of the vaccination hubs reaffirms the importance of accessing these vaccines within your local community – whether that be through your local GP or pharmacist," she said.

"Australia has been in a relatively good position, but as these outbreaks have shown, this position is incredibly precarious.

"The Government cannot afford to squander the gift we have been given of being COVID-free these past months.



"We cannot afford to continue stalling the rollout - it will ultimately be at the expense of lives."

MEANWHILE, the owner of a pharmacy that has been selected to participate in the pilot told an industry Facebook group that he found out that the store was being activated after it was reported on a local news website.

"It is unlikely that we will be ready for the stated date," he said.

The pharmacist added that the short lead-in time was "stretching an already stretched resource", with many of the activated stores single pharmacist pharmacies without ready access to a second immuniser.

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^Qi DS et al. Clin Ther. 2012 Dec;34(12):2247-2258 (sponsored by Tylenol®).

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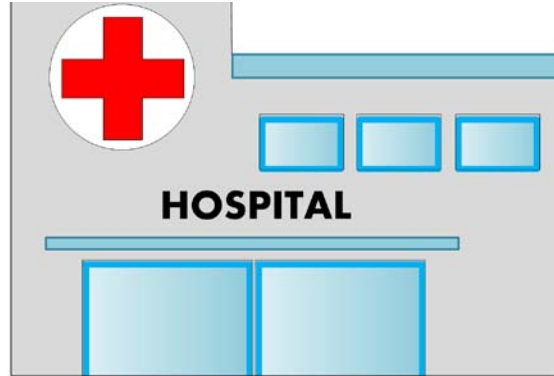
Hospital pharmacy needs promotion

LOW morale in the community pharmacy sector is hurting the profession, and could impact the availability of a skilled hospital pharmacy workforce, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) *Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2021* report warns.

The document, released this week, noted there was growing uncertainty about the future availability of a skilled pharmacy workforce, despite noting significant growth in the numbers of students training to become pharmacists since 1997.

"Only 28% of community pharmacists recommend pharmacy as a career," the authors said.

"Although hospital pharmacy morale appears higher, with 44% of hospital pharmacists recommending a pharmacy career, reduced community pharmacy morale impacts the willingness of talented people to enter the profession, threatening hospital pharmacist workforce availability. "Pharmacy leaders should



consider how to promote a career in hospital pharmacy more broadly, as low morale in community pharmacy impacts the general perception of pharmacy as a career and hospital pharmacy is currently only 'visible' for students well into their undergraduate degree when clinical placements occur."

The report also noted that hospital pharmacy "has long struggled with the issue of specialisation", with limited access to certifications or qualifications

for many hospital pharmacy specialities.

"Most specialists' roles are filled on a chicken-and-egg basis: an ICU pharmacist position should be filled by an ICU pharmacist, but the only way to become an ICU pharmacist is to have filled an ICU pharmacist position," the authors said.

"The development of Advanced Training Residencies (ATRs) represents probably the most important step to date towards a mature model of recognition of specialist practice and skills."



Dispensary Corner

FORGET winning a cuddly toy or a model car at the amusement arcade - a prankster in Townsville has filled a "skill tester" machine with much more valuable collateral.

The *Townsville Bulletin* reported on the incident where Brendan Wright, the owner of the Toy Soldier game, filled it up with toilet paper instead (pictured).

It costs \$2 a go, with users given three attempts at controlling a mechanical claw to grab the items.

Those who aren't in a panic-buying dunny dilemma can also go for more traditional prizes of stuffed teddy bears.

"It started off as a joke between friends about toilet paper shortage," he said, with the shelves of local supermarkets stripped amid the current national lockdowns.

"They all think it's hilarious and a great idea. You just have to look at the bright side of life during these uncertain times.

"As they say, a day without laughter is a day wasted," Wright wisely added.



PPA updates

THE Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) has highlighted updates to programs funded under the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement since 01 Jul.

The PPA has noted the new Indigenous Dose Administration Aids Program commenced yesterday, with the Indigenous Health Services Pharmacy Support Program replacing the QUMAX and S100 Pharmacy Support Allowance Programs.

The management of the Emergency Locum Service also moved to Raven's Recruitment.

AHPRA issues warning over conduct

REPORTS about incidents of sexual harassment and gendered violence involving health professionals have prompted the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to remind health workers that there is "no place for sexism, sexual harassment or violence in healthcare".

AHPRA said that while most of the 822,374 registered health professionals were focused on patient safety and practice professionally and respectfully within the regulatory framework of registration standards, codes

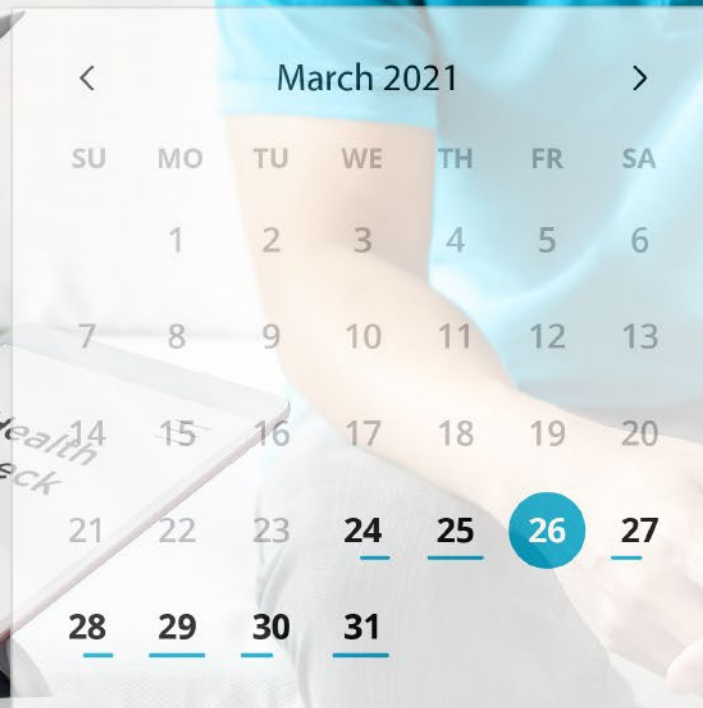
and guidelines, a small number behaved unprofessionally.

"AHPRA and the National Boards explicitly condemn sexism, sexual harassment or gendered violence by registered health practitioners," the agency said.

"Unprofessional conduct may result in regulatory action including suspending registration or imposing a condition on registration, to protect the public.

"Some unprofessional conduct may involve criminal behaviour, such as sexual assault, and should be considered by police in the first instance."

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